



December 8, 2009

Notice of Final Determination
“SEATTLE FAULT CORING PROJECT”
SEPA File No. 09-112304
Application No. 23-085225

The Department of Natural Resources issued a ☐ Determination of Non-significance (DNS), ☒ Mitigated Determination of Non-significance (MDNS), ☐ Modified DNS/MDNS on 11-23-2009 for this proposal under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and WAC 197-11-340(2).

This threshold determination is hereby:

☒ Retained.

☐ Modified. Modifications to this threshold determination include the following:

☐ Withdrawn. This threshold determination has been withdrawn due to the following:

☐ Delayed. A final threshold determination has been delayed due to the following:

Summary of Comments and Responses (if applicable):

DNR received two comments regarding the coring proposal.

- 1) NOAA Fisheries Manchester Research Station was supportive of the project as mitigated.
- 2) EPA was focused on:
 - a. the project proponent obtaining the proper permits;
 - b. ensuring that NOAA Fisheries Manchester Research Station concerns were comprehensively addressed;
 - c. addressing any concerns expressed by the commercial aquaculture operation;
 - d. ensuring that any surfactant used to expedite drilling through the sediments did not create a hazard to marine life;
 - e. not creating an additional saltwater intrusion into the local aquifer.

Response:

- a. With the assistance of the Governor's Office of Regulatory Assistance the project proponent has filed for all applicable permits.
- b. NOAA Fisheries Manchester Research Station has expressed that they are supportive of the project as mitigated.
- c. The commercial aquaculture operation has not expressed concerns. The mitigation measures should be equally effective for addressing the concerns of NOAA and the commercial Atlantic salmon aquaculture operation.
- d. No surfactant will be used in the drilling operation.



- e. The Department believes that impacts to the aquifer will not be a concern because (a) the core has a minimal (3.8-inch) diameter; (b) the bedrock in this area has suffered significant trauma from seismic action, and it is likely that the hole will refill once the drilling is complete; (c) saltwater intrusion occurs in virtually every coastal aquifer which is in hydraulic continuity with marine waters. As a result, there is typically a saltwater wedge at the bottom of coastal aquifers.

Responsible Official: KRISTIN SWENDDAL

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Date: Dec. 8, 2009

Signature: 

There is no agency SEPA appeal.